



**FRANKLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE
JANUARY 22, 2021**

Giving an update on the progress about the construction of the new Franklin County Courthouse might best be compared to hitting a fast-moving target. In other words, work is progressing so rapidly and so well that updates virtually change from hour-to-hour.

At times resembling a beehive in the center of the Benton Public Square, the much-anticipated facility is quickly taking shape. Workers from Fager-McGee Construction have completed the basement area and exterior walls on the north and west side are rapidly going up, while pier-work and footings on the east and south side give observers a good image of how big the new three-story, 46,000 square feet, \$17.5 million facility will actually be. The main entrance to the new courthouse will be on the west side with a sally port for transporting prisoners to the courthouse located on the south side.

When completed the new courthouse will contain four courtrooms total -- two equipped for jury trials and two smaller ones, offices for court reporters, judges' chambers and conference rooms for public defenders and state's attorney. A secure elevator will deliver prisoners from the ground floor to the courtrooms, away from public visibility. The bottom floor will be used by the circuit clerk's office and will also contain a jury selection room/county board room along with court security offices, women's advocate and the county administrative assistant offices.

The project is expected to be completed in April 2022.